

**Members Present:**      **Jim Anderson, Tom Gilbertson, Rand Middleton, Andy Ogdahl, Rachel Skretvedt and Julie Asmus, City Council Representative**

**Staff Present:**            **Rob Baumgarn, Britta Diem, Gary Manzer, Ryan Scheffler and Becky Sorenson**

**Guests Present:**        **Tom Amberg, Ryan Voz, Marc Jerzak, Stacy Teigels-Nelson, Mary Sawatzky**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Jim Anderson. He asked for a motion to approve last month's minutes. Rachel Skretvedt made the motion to approve, seconded by Tom Gilbertson. Motion carried.

Public Forum – Rob Baumgarn stated that, since we have not had a chance to go over our bylaws, he was going to follow open forum protocols of the City Council and limit comments to 3 minutes.

Gary Manzer informed everyone that he had received a call about a child stuck in a swing at the Destination Playground. The child was stuck in the companion swing/infant carrier (he was not an infant) and he entered it backwards. The swing had to be cut to release him. The child was not hurt and the mother was present. After looking at the swing set, Gary thinks it's a little deceiving on how to use the units. He has removed the swing and will be ordering a replacement and discussing the safety features with the manufacturer.

Mary Sawatzky, representing the baseball community, was present to talk about the Stingers' lease agreement. She stated that she and Rob have had a good conversation regarding the lease agreement and other baseball matters. Her presence is to provide info to the Board. Some of her concerns with the lease language is that conditions for the concession stand requirements are appreciated but conditions are not stated, the length of the lease are stated but the ability to review the lease was not stated.

Jim Anderson then talked about the Willmar Stingers lease and asked Rob to clarify. Rob said that the process is that anything the Park & Rec Board recommends will go to either the Finance Committee or the Public Works Committee before going to the City Council. Rob has talked to other baseball groups for their input. The Finance Committee had questions on the concession stand which was a concern for baseball groups who wanted to be able to sell concessions and make money for their group. Verbiage was added to the agreement stating the groups running a tournament could either contract with the Stingers to run the concession stand or the group could sell their own concessions from a tent but would not be allowed to use the concession building.

One thing that Rob was not aware of is that any leases that are over 3 years in length have to go to the Planning Commission., so he will be going to the Planning Commission meeting tonight.

Jim Anderson asked if there was a motion to approve the revised lease. A motion was made by Tom Gilbertson, seconded by Rachel Skretvedt to approve the revised lease. Discussion followed. Julie Asmus asked what the length of time for the War Hawks' lease. Rob answered it was a yearly lease and said he has asked them to go with a three year lease but they have not wanted to do that. Julie stated that she understood the desire for a ten year lease versus having to renew every five years but she feels that ten years is a very long time. Rachel agreed with Julie and said that we should revisit the issue and check with the Planning Commission at tonight's meeting to see if they were in favor of a three or five year lease. Julie stated she didn't think they would go for a three year lease. Rob said that he had heard there were other leases that are for a longer term than ten years.

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Rob stated that we have the verbiage ready to go if they choose to have a five year with a five year renewal. Our ultimate goal is to keep the Stingers in town. Rachel Skretvedt said that with all the changes happening in the near future with the Local Option Sales Tax taking place, maybe now is a good idea to go with a 5 year lease.

Jim Anderson asked Rob what the reasons were for going with a ten year lease. Rob said he feels it's a good way to lock in the Stingers for ten years. Verbiage is in the lease to cover cost increases over the ten year period. The one big advantage to the City is that the Stingers will now take care of cleaning the stadium saving around \$7,000 for the City.

Rachel asked what other Board Members thought. Jim Anderson mentioned to the Board that Andy Ogdahl is removed from voting on the lease. Tom Gilbertson stated he was in favor of the ten year lease. Jim asked if the vote should be a two part vote – the concession changes and the ten year lease. The original motion was to accept the lease with the changes. As there was no further business, Jim asked for a vote on the motion. Motion carried with Andy Ogdahl abstaining and Julie Asmus voting against the motion.

The next item on the agenda was the Glacial Ridge Curling Club. Tom Amberg was present to discuss the architect for the design of the new facility. He received three different bids – from Negen Associates, Terwisscha Construction and Ramaker & Associates. The Curling Club is recommending accepting Lon Negen as the architect. They are asking for City Council approval. Jim Anderson asked for a motion. Rand Middleton made a motion to accept the Curling Club's recommendation. Julie Asmus seconded. After further discussion, the motion was approved.

The next item on the agenda was the Wild Oar agreement. Stacy Teigels Nelson and Rob have been working on this plan for a while to put rental water equipment at the Island. It has been approved by the City Council. Stacy was present to talk about her plans. Jim Anderson stated, that since it's already been approved, this is for our information only. Stacy stated that her plans include non-motorized water equipment, ie paddle boards, kayaks and one paddle boat. Everyone using the equipment would be required to wear a life jacket. She is planning to sell pre-packaged food, nothing homemade. She will be moving a building in to house the paddleboards, etc. It will not be a permanent structure, it would be removed at the end of the season. Her plan is to be open 7 days a week, weather permitting 1-6 pm weekdays and 12-5 on weekends, extending hours during special events.

Tom Gilbertson asked if they would be renting out anything other than watercraft. Stacy replied that it would just be water craft so far. Rob mentioned that we have discs available for disc golf. After some discussion, Julie Asmus wished Stacy good luck.

The four season shelter was the next topic to be discussed. Rob, Julie Asmus and Curt Hein met with Richard Engan to finalize plans. The scaled down bathrooms is a good plan as it allows all plumbing on one wall which will save money. The outside has been scaled back from all block to block part of the way with siding on the top half. There will be no air conditioning in the building, will utilize the natural air flow. The flooring will be stained concrete. Bathroom fixtures will be the same as at the Arena to make for ease of maintenance. Water and light fixtures will be on sensors so faucets and lights won't be left on. The biggest change will be no fireplace. A big screen television will be mounted on the wall allowing for groups to use for Powerpoint presentations, etc. The kitchenette area will be made bigger with some cabinets.

The outside plaza will be moved a bit closer to the beach. That way, if a fire pit is added, someone sitting at the fire pit would be able to look at the lake instead of the shelter. Julie Asmus also stated the bike/walk path was a bit too close as originally drawn, people would have to circle around the fire pit to continue on. By moving the plaza, it

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allows for a direct route for bikes, walkers. Rob said he has talked to Richard and Stuart at SRF to make sure the bike path connects to Thompson Park with the least amount of congestion with walkers, etc.

Some of the bigger questions were the vaulted ceiling versus a drop down ceiling. Rob feels that the vaulted ceiling with a rustic look would be much better than a drop down ceiling. Acoustics will be included in the design. Ceiling fans will help with ventilation. We have been able to move the shelter a bit further south so no trees will be affected, the big oak tree won't have to be cut down. Rob feels that we should be able to go out for bid shortly. He thanked the Board for their work.

Rachel Sketvedt asked how much money was able to be saved in the new design. Rob stated that we were \$227,000 over. He said that about \$30,000-\$40,000 was saved just in the bathrooms. The siding change saved additional money. Rob stated there were some alternate choices so if the bid comes back over budget, changes could be made

We need to submit to the Council this cut down version because the original plan was \$1.2 million and Council said no and stated the project needs to be \$800,000 or less. It will go to the City Council at the July meeting, after first going to the committee.

Rand Middleton asked about Guri Endresen Shelter. Rob stated that it would stay the same until the new shelter is built. After that, some re-vamping would need to be done to facilitate the electrical for the playground that was placed in Guri, which will need to be moved. The new road will be in the area of Guri so the shelter will have to be moved or torn down.

The Coordinator's Reports were emailed out to Board Members. This is the Board's opportunity to ask about programs. Jim Anderson stated there was a good article in the newspaper regarding our new PARK IT program. He said there were a lot of kids and staff at Rice Park today having a good time. Ryan talked a bit about the program, saying there were arts and crafts, board games, lawn games and sports for kids to take part in. Kids sign in when they arrive and will be eligible for prizes at the end of the program in July. He's hoping to have Berry make an appearance. The rotation is Mondays at Miller, Tuesdays at Lincoln, Wednesdays at Rice and Thursdays at Northside. We are averaging around 25 per park, hoping to build the numbers up. Julie Asmus asked if we are competing with the Growmobile. Rob said we had talked to James Miller to make sure our PARK IT program was not at the same park on the same day the Growmobile. Also, the Growmobile is more education based where our program is more recreation based.

Rand Middleton asked Ryan to speak about youth baseball. For 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade, we used to play just Willmar teams but we have 19 teams in the league from New London, Watkins, KMS, to name a few. We also have 19 teams in grades 5 & 6, with area town teams. He is working on getting traveling and rec teams to work together and have traveling players also playing rec. Rob stated we have made huge strides in working with baseball associations to improve baseball in Willmar. We are trying to entice kids to come out and play baseball, even if they aren't baseball players. Rob feels that third and fourth grade levels should be able to experiment with sports and not tied down to one. That is what we are hoping to accomplish thru PARK IT where kids can try various sports to find what they like best.

Rand Middleton asked about soccer opportunities. Ryan said we have a Tuesday/Thursday morning league for kindergarten thru grade 4. The enrollment numbers for kindergarten is low. Ryan is unsure why that is. We did make a change this year with children registering for the grade going into (versus the grade completed) so pre-schoolers may not have been aware that they could register for kindergarten soccer. Rob explained that the

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traveling soccer numbers have gone down because there aren't any local teams to play and they would need to drive to the Cities for games which is a hardship for quite a few parents.

Rob asked if anyone had questions for Britta. Julie Asmus asked if there were any issues with getting summer staff. Both Ryan and Britta stated they had no problems with hiring staff. Britta was appreciative that many of her staff were returning. Ryan stated he thinks the City needs to address the part time pay scale. Gary Manzer said he has the same problem with his summer staff because they max out at \$11 with the County starting at \$12.

Jim Anderson asked if the free splash pad took away paying customers at the pool. Britta stated that it might but she didn't feel it was a big problem.

Rand Middleton asked about Vos Park's new playground. He stated that the playground looked very different. Rob said he was told to have a "wow" factor so the playground equipment was chosen with a space theme. The playground equipment was moved to the south west to keep it from being flooded with heavy rains. The shelter will also be moved. Due to the promotion from Game Time, we are able to pay \$100,000 for equipment and get \$200,000 in equipment, on certain playground packages. This has been a great benefit as we had so many parks with bad or substandard equipment.

Jim Anderson asked about pickleball courts. Rob stated he got a quote for doing pickleball courts and he didn't like it. He is looking at contracting it out to a paving company, painting lines and buying our own nets. He is hoping to get the job done this fall. The plan is for six pickleball courts at Sperry Park.

Julie Asmus stated she had three questions about Robbins Island. She asked about the zip line swing. Gary Manzer stated he is waiting for the new line to come in. Julie asked about shade tarps. Gary stated that for a large shade area, you would need to have some heavy duty poles with deep footings to carry the weight. Rachel Skretvedt said that someone should talk to Sarah Carlson and the Foundation about receiving some funding towards the shade structures.

Gary mentioned that there are issues at Rice Park with part of the concrete pad. Some fixes have been done but have not solved the problem. Water runs to the southwest into the grass, creating mud which the kids run thru and bring onto the splash pad. Currently some rubber curbing has been placed in the area. The concrete needs to be jack hammered out and replaced but Gary didn't want to do that now. The temporary fix doesn't affect usage of the splash pad and new concrete will be poured this fall.

Julie Asmus' third question was regarding the sign at Robbins Island. She said she has received numerous questions if the sign will be completed. Currently, the sign is at an angle allowing for clear viewing by cars coming from the south but cars coming from the north don't see the sign until they are past it. Julie asked if there was any plan to add another sign angled so people coming from the north could easily see it. Gary stated he did not know if there was any discussion regarding that but he has had some complaints about the sign. Rob stated there was a brown highway sign for Robbins Island. It was felt that the sign was adequate.

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Tom Gilbertson to adjourn, seconded by Julie Asmus and passed.

The next Park & Rec Board meeting will be July 17 at 1:30 at the Arena.